The People of England's GRIEVANCES offered to be Enquired into, and Redreſs'd by their Repreſentatives in Parliament.

THE preſent Government, under which we expected ſo much Happineſs, doth ſo ſenſibly decay in the good Opinion and Affections of all ſorts of People, that nothing but the timely Help of the approaching Parliament can prevent thoſe dangers which otherwiſe the general Want of Affection in too many Men of all ranks ſeem to portend unto it.

On *Monday*, the firſt day of the Term, *Weſtminſter-hall* was filled with loud Complaints and Threatenings againſt the great Men, for Impriſoning Peers and Commoners contrary to Law. One brave Peer, whoſe great Years cannot abate the Fervour of his juvenile Courage, by which he rendred himſelf ſo famous, and enobled his Poſterity, ſpake aloud againſt Foreigners, and foreign Counſels; his Share in the Government could not prevail with him to hide its Defects and wrong meaſures, to the aſtoniſhment of the Hearers: And the very ſame day at the *Royal Exchange*, as if the Citizens had been acted with the ſame Spirit of Diſcontent, they talked loudly of their Loſſes by Sea, and the Male-adminiſtration of the Navy, curſing the Dutch, and reciting their Loſſes ſince the Revolution, to the value of ſeveral Millions. The two or three next days following, and ever ſince, we have heard our Seamen bitterly curſing in the Streets for want of their Pay; and our Land-Forces, newly arrived from *Flanders*, curſing as bitterly for their ill Uſage there. Nay, the very Officers that are come from thence, and ſome of them Members of Parliament, curſe the *Dutch* as bitterly in private as their Soldiers do in the Streets. They tell us, without reſerve, of the unequal treatment abroad of them and the *Dutch*; theſe are paid, while they and their Men ſcarce have Subſiſtance; and yet they muſt be called out to fight the Battels, in truth, of the *Dutch*, who ſtand looking on, and muſt not come to their Relief.

The Common People are alſo querelous in almoſt all places, they complain aloud of the Weight and Number of our Taxes, while Books are written, complaining of the Male-adminiſtration from the firſt overſight in not relieving *Ireland*; as alſo of the loſs of ſo many brave *Engliſh*-

gliſh-men for want of being relieved and ſuccoured at the Battel of *Steynkirk*; as likewiſe the Miſcariage of the Deſcent. From *theſe Books*, and the *free Diſcourſes* of ſuch *true Patriots* as *wrote* them, the Nation is perfectly informed how empty we are left of Stores and Ammunition, by the conſumption of thoſe King *James* left, to the value of Thirteen hundred thouſand Pounds, and by ſending abroad great Trains of Artillery. By them we come to know that foreign Commodities are riſen 30 *per Cent.* and that ours are fallen 20 *per Cent.* That great numbers of Land-men, Natives of this Kingdom, were preſs'd againſt Law, and the Liberty of the Subject, for Sea ſervice, and ſold into *Flanders* againſt their Conſent. That our beſt Coin is exported into *Holland* and *Flanders*, and a great part of it there clipt and demoliſhed; and that our Forces are there abuſed with the change of our Guineas which have eſcaped melting down. That above two hundred thouſand *Engliſh men* have been loſt by the War ſince the Revolution; and that the Government hath ſpent above two and twenty Millions, and (as pretended) is ſix in debt, or thereabouts. That Parliament Men have been cloſetted of late, and that in *Flanders*, as well as *England*. That Conſpiracies and Aſſociations have been forged againſt Peers and Commoners; and the Forgers of them, though ſo palpably detected, not proſecuted till lately; that the Parliament was ready to meet, who had voted that the Attorney General ſhould proceed againſt *Fuller*. That a free-born *Engliſh man* hath been tortured in *Scotland* by order from *England*, againſt all Law and Example; and alſo againſt Law confined, and ſo continues without new Evidence, after he had endured Torture. That Men of all degrees are injured and oppreſt more than ever, with enormous and exceſſive Fines and Bail, againſt the Articles of Government. That places of Truſt, both Civil and Military, are ſold; and that the Kingdom is full of foreign Forces, to the terrour of our own People. That the publick Moneys, given and deſigned ſolely for the defence and preſervation of the Nation, have been miſapplied, of which, though many Inſtances might be given, I ſhall for brevity ſake onely inſtance in one: It appears by the publick Accompts delivered in to Parliament, that two thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty pounds were paid to the Earl of *Sunderland*, one excepted out of the Act of Grace; and to whom the Nation is onely indebted, for the dreadfull Calamities (the Effects of his Management and Advices) which have befaln it.

Theſe things, and many more which might be recited, have bred in many an Indifference for the Government, who were before well affected to it, and others diſlike it to that degree, as to wiſh for a Common-wealth, or any thing that may give them Eaſe. It is the great Zeal I have to prevent the ruine of my Countrey, as much as lies in my

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ſingle Capacity, that makes me write this ſhort Summary of our *Grievances*, and ſet it in the view of our Repreſentatives, who are onely capable to make an effectual Enquiry into the true Cauſes of them, and remove them. Some of them indeed are apparently the Cauſes of others; but there is undoubtedly ſome general Cauſe or Cauſes of them all: And if the Voice of the People, by which I underſtand People of all ranks, ſpeaks truth, *Dutch Counſels* and *Dutch Meaſures* of acting are the true ſource of all theſe Miſchiefs; or elſe, how come they to curſe the *Dutch*, in the Court and in the Camp, in the City and in the Country, by Sea and Land, both here and in *Flanders*; and the *Engliſh* Hatred of the *French* is turning apace, in all ſorts of Men, into an Hatred of the *Dutch*: Our very Soldiers by Sea and Land, as well as their Commanders, wiſh for a War againſt the *Dutch*; and Parliament Men enough complain, that they ſhall never get ſome Bills paſs for the benefit of this Kingdom, becauſe they are contrary to the Intereſt of the *Dutch*.

I muſt avow, I cannot tell what need an *Engliſh* King hath of *Dutch* Counſellours: It is enough that he govern by them in the *United Provinces*, and by *Engliſhmen* in *England*; as if he were crowned King of *France*, (for which ſome hope his good Fortune reſerves him,) he muſt not expect to govern that Kingdom by *Engliſh* Counſels; for the *French* would never endure *Engliſh* Miniſters, or *Engliſh* Counſels, or *Engliſh* Forces; nor do I know why the *Engliſh* ſhould endure the *Dutch*.

It is the Expectation of all true *Engliſhmen*, that the Parliament will at laſt remove this Cauſe of our Calamities, before they give any more Money; but if they do not, they will give to their own and our Deſtruction, and repent when it is too late.

His Majeſty being King of *England*, as ſuch is one of the greateſt crowned Heads of *Europe*, and it would be an unſpeakable Satisfaction to his People, if he would be pleaſed to quit his Stadtholderſhip in *Holland*; for *England* and the *United Provinces* are Rivals for the Trade of the World, and as ſuch have mighty croſſing and interfering Intereſts, and will be always jealous of one another.

Another Cauſe of our Calamities, proceeding in part from the former, is, as many ſuſpect, the Corruption of ſome Members of Parliament, who do not give but ſell their Votes. This is a great reproach to our Nation, under a *Reforming Government*, and hath been the Complaint of ſome in the Houſe, as well as without doors; and it is the deſire and expectation of all true *Engliſhmen*, before any more of our Money be given, that the Commiſſioners appointed and enabled to examine the publick Accompts of the Kingdom, do take and require an Accompt upon Oath from the reſpective Officers, of all the Penſions, Salaries, and Summs of Money, paid or payable out of the Revenue or

otherwise, to *Members of Parliament*, and that Accompt so taken be delivered into *Parliament*. No sound Member can oppose such an Enquiry, and if upon making of it any *Revolvers* (as they are called) can be found, it will be an Honour to the House, and a Satisfaction to the Nation, to have the House purged of them; or if none should be found, it will yet be a greater Honour to the House, and a full Satisfaction to the People, to know there are no such Members among them in this *Reformed Reign*.

These are some among many other Enquiries, which we hope our Representatives will make, and redress what *Grievances* they find, before they give any more of our Money; the Love of their Groaning Countrey, and their Honour as *Englishmen*, and as *Trustees* of the *English People*, we cannot but think will oblige them to it.

I have said nothing of the *General Excise*, because it cannot enter into my Heart to think that the Conservators of our Liberties will lay Impositions upon the Necessaries of Life; for though a Nation may endure it whereof nine parts in ten live on *Trade*, yet it can never be endured long in a Country where the same proportion live upon *Land*, and not on *Trade*, as the Dutch do. I speak of a *General Excise*, which takes in *Bread*, *Flesh*, *Salt*, *Soap*, *Tallow*, *Leather*, or other Commodities, absolutely necessary for the Subsistance of the poor as well as the rich of the Nation, which I aver will ruine our Countrey, and if it be not so *General* will not answer the Ends for which it is imposed: The *fourth* or *fifth Penny* will go away in such a *General Excise*, which is as much as most people lay up, or *can* lay up for their Children, but if that share must go to the *Government* out of our necessary Expences, *God be mercifull unto us, and to the miserable Posterity which we shall leave behind us.* I shall say nothing of the Legions of Excise men which must then live upon our Vitals. The *French* will be then by much the *happier People*, when this *Gabell* shall be established: Some say it shall be given but for the time the War shall last; but I say, if it once be given, the Government will never want a pretence of Necessity to keep it up in time of *Peace* as well as *War*; and when it is once up, *Adieu* to *free Parliaments*, and then who shall pull it down?

It is already given in the Intention of some; for one *Parker*, *Agent* for the *Dutch Bankers*, is come out of *Holland* with a *Plan* or *Method*, there contrived, of raising it here in *England*; and with a proposition, that the *Dutch* Bankers, who cannot but be supposed to doe it by the Direction of the States General, will advance some Millions on that Fund, as soon as granted; by which they will in a short time devour the *whole Treasure of the Nation*: For in *Holland* Money is put out but at 3 *per Cent.* and for Money put into the Exchequer here 8 *per Cent.* is allowed: So that the *Dutch* will thereby be clear Gainers 5 *per Cent.*

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and 6 *per Cent.* for remitting our Money into *Holland*. Wherefore such an Excise will not only impoverish our Country, but enslaves us to the *Dutch*, by enriching them, and helping to maintain greater Numbers of foreign Forces, who have no Principle, but to fight for Pay. It is found by Experience, that they will fight as they are commanded, as well against as for our Religion and Liberties. *Duke Schomberg's* Declaration in *Dauphiny* (as in the original *French*) hath helped to open our Eyes; and it is most certain, that Foreigners in the Confederacy fight more for *our Money* than the *Protestant Religion*, and make *new Bargains* against every Campaign.

I shall not presume to direct our Representatives what is fit to be levied for the Carrying on of the War; but I must beg leave to acquaint them, that as it is not to be doubted but that they will be minded of their Promise, to make up the *Poll-Bill* 1300000 *l.* which is said not to amount to above 800000 *l.* so it is to be hoped, before they give the remaining Balance, 500000 *l.* they will please to enquire, whether for carrying on the *Defign* which was to be made into *Flanders*, the full number of 38000 Men were raised and paid, that being the *Quota* alleged for that particular Service in the Account of 65000 Men to be raised and maintained for one whole year, for the defraying of the Charges whereof the Parliament so frankly gave the full Summ demanded.

And before I conclude I shall take liberty to acquaint our Representatives in Parliament, that the Nation expects that they shall either appropriate what they give this Session to the use of the War, and appoint Commissioners to receive it, and issue out the payments of it to that intent and purpose, and no other; or in case they think not fit to do this, then it will be expected, that they will make all Officers whatsoever, appointed to receive and issue out any of the said Money, liable to the penalties of perpetual Disability for any Office, Civil or Military, and an Incapacity to sit in either House of Parliament, if they or any of them shall issue out or misapply any of the said Money to any other use or purpose; as also to an Action from any person or persons who shall advance Money, or furnish any Stores or Habiliments for War by Sea or Land upon the Fond of the said Money, which shall be appropriated to the aforesaid use.

It is also to be desired, that they will require all *English* Officers, Civil and Military, to bring a true Account of the just Arrears due to them, and all Persons employed under them on the publick Service, and vote all such Arrears to be paid out of some Branch of the publick Revenue, as may be most ease to the Kingdom.

But it is to be hoped when you enquire into the Receipt of the Mony brought into the Exchequer this last year, and the Disbursements, there will there remain money, more than sufficient, to pay all Arrears due

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to the Land and Sea Forces: for the Customs have this last year clearly brought in Eight hundred thousand pounds, the hereditary Excise Six hundred thousand, the double Excise four hundred thousand, the small Branches of the Revenue Forty thousand, the Land Tax Sixteen hundred thousand, and admit that the quadruple Poll brought in but Eight hundred thousand pound, the total of this Year's receipts amounts to Four Millions, two hundred and forty thousand pounds; which, with Eighteen Millions given before, since the *Revolution*, amounts to above Two and twenty Millions, received by the Government: And if that hath not been sufficient to defray the Charge of the War, and all the necessary Expences of the Government, with a Summ remaining in Banck sufficient to discharge all Arrears, then the Nation must sink under the Burthen, unless our Representatives can find out a way to lessen the *Charge* of the Government, and encrease the *Riches* of the Kingdom.

And whether or no that will not in a great measure be done by opening our Trade with *France*, (even during the continuance of the War) will be worth their Consideration. A Member of the House of Commons, who is a Commissioner for the Revenue in *Ireland*, can testifie that the Customes there encreased this year to the value of Twenty five thousand Pounds, by the Import of a 500 Tun of *French* Wine, brought in pursuant to the Articles of *Limerick*; and if our Trade with *France* be not opened, we shall still have *French* Wines and other Commodities from thence brought in to us by the *Danes*, *Swedes*, and *Dutch*; the last whereof, as well as our Allies in *Flanders*, have lately taught us by Experience, that a Commerce of Trade is not inconsistent with a State of War. We had much better have in our own Bottoms what have been and will be brought to us by Foreigners: For, not to instance in other *French* Merchandises, it is notoriously known that we have had *Champaigne Wine* (the undeniable Product of *France*) by the way of *Flanders* and *Holland*, at so great a rate it could not be sold in Taverns here for less than 10 a Flask.

Foreigners thus carrying away our Trade, is a great *Grievance*; and if this, with our *other Grievances* be redressed, and Care be taken that no more *Money* be given than what is absolutely necessary for the Preservation and Safety of the Nation, and that what be given be duly applied for the uses intended, the People will part with their *Money* the more *chearfully*, and more *moderate Taxes* than what we are now affrighted with the Apprehensions of will defray the necessary Expences of the War.

If any of our Representatives shall not think fit for private ends of their own to doe these things, and shall prefer their own private Gain and Advancement before the publick Good; such must expect that the

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People will never more chuſe them to ſerve in *Parliament*: But we hope for better things, and are willing to believe they will approve themſelves to be the true Conſervators of the Liberties of *England*, and to take care to redreſs our *Grievances*, particularly in *diſmiſſing all foreign Forces*, and juſtly and duly *paying* all our *Engliſh* by *Sea* and *Land*, which will ſo encourage our Soldiers, and unite us all at home, that no true hearted *Engliſhman* will be terrified or affrighted with the apprehenſion or rumour of any foreign Invaſion whatſoever.

Having in this Paper taken notice of the Barbarity uſed towards a free-born *Engliſhman* in *Scotland*, by Torture and Impriſonment contrary to Law; that I may not ſeem partial, by concealing the Inhumanity lately uſed towards Priſoners in *England*, I ſhall give an Inſtance of ſuch Barbarity, that I was very unwilling to credit the Relation, till I was throughly convinced of the Truth from the ſolemn Aſſeverations made by perſons of undoubted Credit and Reputation.

Two Foreigners and an *Engliſhman* were committed this laſt Summer Priſoners to *Newgate* as Spies, by a Warrant from a Miniſter of State, and by *Order* kept in *Irons* under ſo cloſe a Confinement, that no perſon, except the Gaolers, was permitted for a long time to ſpeak to them, ſee them, or ſend them any Relief; and if the *Irons did not enter their Souls*, it did ſo deeply their Fleſh, that *Major Richardſon*, now or lately Keeper of *Newgate*, and not much fam'd for *Tenderheartedneſs*, was moved in Compaſſion towards them, of his own accord, to ſtrike off their *Irons*, give them *Plaiſters* to heal their *Sores*, and move the Ld. Ch. Juſt. that they might be brought to Tryal; but his Lordſhip ſeeing their *Mittimus*, was pleaſed to ſay, *Being committed as* Spies, *they were Priſoners of State, and he could take no cognizance of them*; therefore their Names were not inſerted into the Calendar of the Priſoners, which every Seſſions is preſented to the Judges, in order to the *Gaol-Delivery*. *Major Richardſon* afterward made Application on their behalf to the *Miniſter of State* by whoſe *Order* they were committed, who with a more than uſual Clemency was pleaſed to reply, *KNOCK THEM ON THE HEAD*; and, as if to induce him to obey his Order, ſaid, *No Body knew where they were, nor could any diſcover but from him what became of them*: And what is become of them is very worthy to be inquir'd into by the *Parliament*, who upon Enquiry will find, that one of the aforeſaid Priſoners by his barbarous Uſage is ſo diſtracted, that he is fitter to be an Inhabitant of *Bedlam* than *Newgate*; and if any Humanity hath been ſhewed to any of them, it hath onely been very lately, upon the approach of the Sitting of the Parliament.

FINIS.